

Faculty Senate Minutes, Wednesday, October 24, 2018

JCK 880, 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Attending Senators: Rebecca Bell-Metereau, Janet Bezner, Natalie Ceballos, Michel Conroy, Rachel Davenport, Jesse Gainer, Lynn Ledbetter, Vince Luizzi, Ben Martin, David Nolan, Michael Supancic, Diego Vacaflares, Alex White

Meeting called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Senate Chair Alex White.

Around the Table

- Senator Bezner relayed faculty concerns about an ongoing research study on our campus. Specifically, faculty objected to the researchers' methods of gaining access to faculty administrators as research participants. Senators recognized the problematic nature of the researchers' methods, but suggested that Faculty Senate may not be the appropriate body to resolve the issue. Alternative reporting options were discussed, and concerned individuals should follow-up with Dr. Bezner.
- Senator Luizzi reported that the Academic Freedom Committee (AFC) has been working on a draft of a cyber-harassment policy. Senator White asked the AFC to move forward with the draft, which will be submitted for consideration as a new policy within the Division of Academic Affairs. Senator Luizzi also noted that the AFC has discussed Texas State's standards for discussion of sensitive issues in the classroom. The AFC has identified a statement from the American Association of University Professors, which is less restrictive and better represents the AFC's recommendations. Senator Luizzi will send this statement to Senator White by Friday for his meeting with the system officers and senators from the Texas State University System.
- Senator Nolan relayed faculty concerns about the recent revisions to the policies for Faculty of Practice. Specifically, faculty are concerned about the new requirements for peer-reviewed scholarly research, which will be evaluated during annual review and in decisions about promotion. Senator Bezner met recently with Associate Provost Thorne to discuss these changes, and she provided some clarification for the senators. Senator Nolan suggested that we seek further clarification from the Provost and Associate Provost regarding the alignment of standards at the departmental and administrative levels of review. Senator White plans to address this issue at the next meeting of the Council of Academic Deans. For this meeting, Senator Nolan will provide Dr. White with a copy of his department's draft policy for the evaluation of scholarship for Faculty of Practice.
- Senator Conroy suggested that Dr. Araceli Ortiz's scholarly work should be highlighted in the next Faculty Senate Bulletin.

Minutes from the October 17 senate meeting were approved.

Faculty Developmental Leave (FDL)

- The senate met in closed session to review proposals and to determine the final rankings of the FDL proposals. The final rankings will be forwarded to the Provost.
- Senators discussed potential improvements to the FDL application and review processes. Senators Conroy and White will work on these changes.

Senators voted to recommend Senators Ledbetter and Ceballos to serve on the review committee for the FDL Supplemental Award.